Raid to stop inflation and hoarding

†1730. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of businessmen raided in last one and half years to stop inflation and hoarding;

(b) the name of States in which inquiry has been conducted by the Department under 'stock limit' scheme of the Central Government; and

(c) the benchmark fixed for storage and whether that has been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The enforcement of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 lies with the State Government/ Union Territories. The State Governments/UT Administrations have been delegated powers to take necessary action under the provisions of both "The Essential Commodities Act, 1955" and "The Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980", to prevent mal-practices in essential commodities. There has been regular interaction by Government of India with the State Governments and they have been requested to use these powers effectively. Some State Governments have taken action and reported detentions under the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980. The total number of detentions in 2009 (upto 31.10.2009) is 126. The number of raids under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 conducted, as reported by various State Governments during the year 2008 were 268775 and during 2009 (Upto 31.10.2009) is 111367.

(b) and (c) No inquiry has been conducted by this Department as there is no such provision. The State Governments/UTs have fixed the stock limits as per their requirement. As per information furnished by the State Government/UT Administrations 23 State Governments/UTs have either issued stock limits for all the six items or for individual items or have issued only licensing requirements/stock declaration (of these 23, 18 States/UTs have actually issued stock limit Orders; 5 States/UTs have issued licensing requirements/stock declarations).

Rottening of foodgrains at godowns in Punjab

†1731. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.